Industry Group	Workers laid off
Rubber, Plast., Petro & Coal Prod.	1152
Bank & Similar Financial Inst.	—
Others	1831
All India:	56050

SOURCE: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

Second National Commission for Labour

757. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to set up the Second National Commission on Labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Withdrawal of Provident Fund

758. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a pileup of applications from workers for withdrawal of their provident fund;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a huge amount of Rs. 100 crore is lying unutilised with the Provident Fund Commissioner;

(c) if so, what are the reasons;

(d) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to simplify the release of the funds to the workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 31.3.1993, an amount of Rs. 72.80 crores was lying under the head of unclaimed Deposit Account. The EPF accumulations are invested to earn interest as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. The provident fund amount togetherwith interest is paid as and when claims are made by the subscribers as per the scheme prescribed under the Act. As such, the question of any amount laying unutilised with the Provident Fund Commissioner does not arise.

(d) and (e) The working of the EPF Scheme is generally satisfactory. However, a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF organisation for making further improvements in the services to the subscribers.

Insecurity Haunting the Bonded Children

759. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Fear stalks rescued kids", in the Times of India, dated January 12, 1994 relating to the insecurity haunting the bonded children from the clutches of carpet manufacturers;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to enforce effectively the Bonded Child Labour Law against the culprits violating this law; and

(c) the number of bonded children so far freed and rehabilitated during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bonded Labour is prohibited under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. There is no distinction between child and adult Bonded Labour under the Act. In addition to the above, child labour is prohibited in carpet weaving industry under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Enforcement of these laws is the responsibility of the State Government. State Governments are reminded from time to time to enforce these laws effectively. Review, meeting are held with State Government to monitor the enforcement activity. Training is being imparted to the enforcement officers by National and Regional Labour Institutes.

(c) Separate figures for child bonded labourers are not available.

Modifications in the Industrial Relations Law

760. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions have so far been taken by Government to modify and revise the industrial relations law in regard to different aspects of the industrial relations, including the concepts of the right to strike and lock-out, retrenchment, hire and fire, workmen compensation, minimum wages;

(b) by what time a comprehensive new industrial relations law is to be brought up and at what stage the matter stands at present; and

(c) whether the consultation with the representatives of the industry and newspaper have been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, Trade Unions Act, Minimum Wages Act and Workmen's Compensation Act have been formulated after extensive deliberations in various forums and these proposals are being further processed.

761. *[Transferred to 8th March 1994]*.

Amendment to Child Labour Laws

762. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any scheme or proposed to amend the existing child labour laws to complete the ban on different categories of child Labour in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when such scheme/schemes or amendment will be effective; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of New Labour Laws

763. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the promised amended or new labour laws are going to be introduced during the current budget session of Parliament;

(b) whether Government are considering two sets of closure retrenchment schemes i.e. for the existing industries and new industries;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to be embodied in the Act that 45 days wages for each